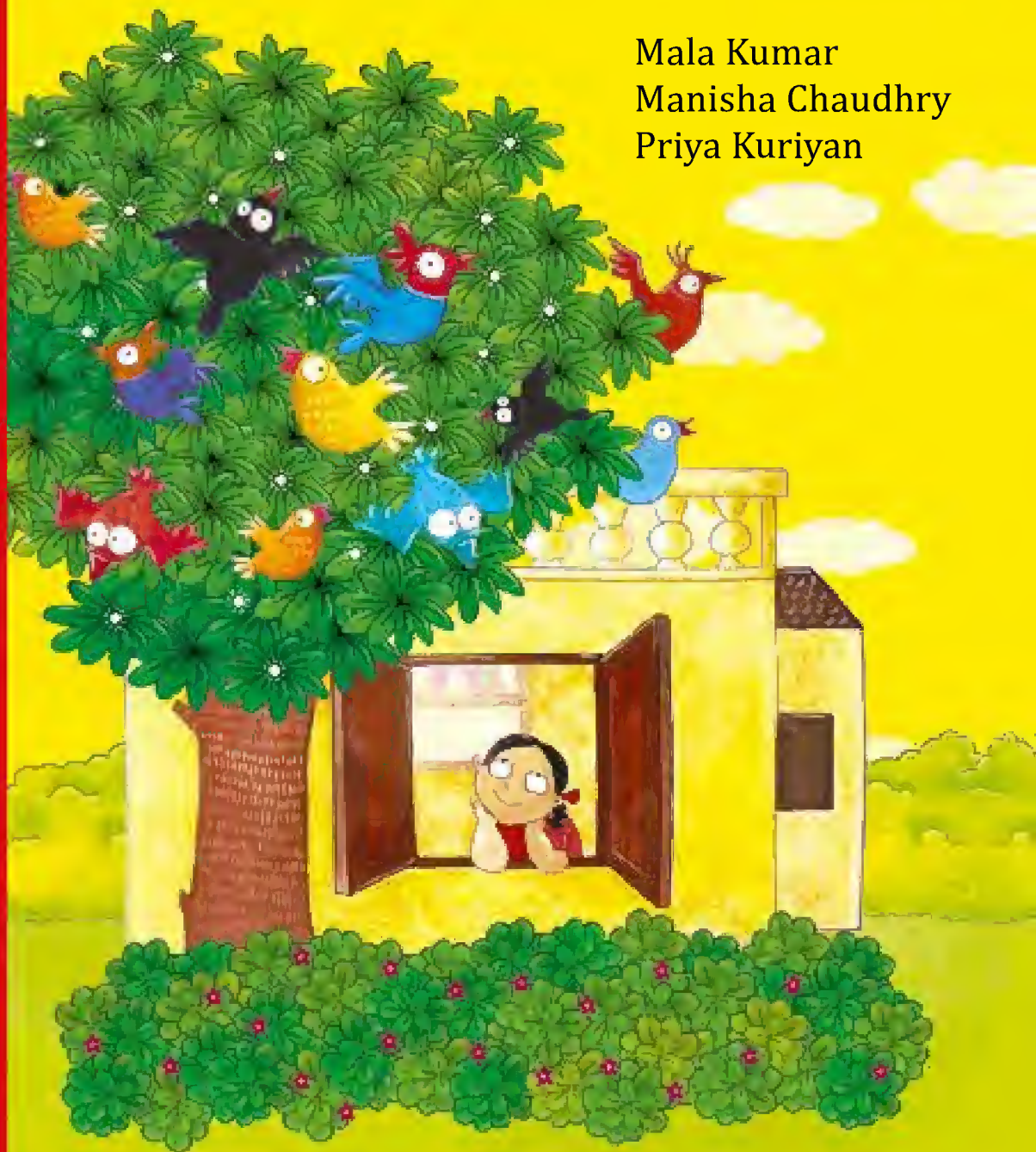




# Everything looks new!



Mala Kumar  
Manisha Chaudhry  
Priya Kuriyan



**'Everything looks new!'**

By Mala Kumar and Manisha Chaudhry

Illustrations: Priya Kuriyan

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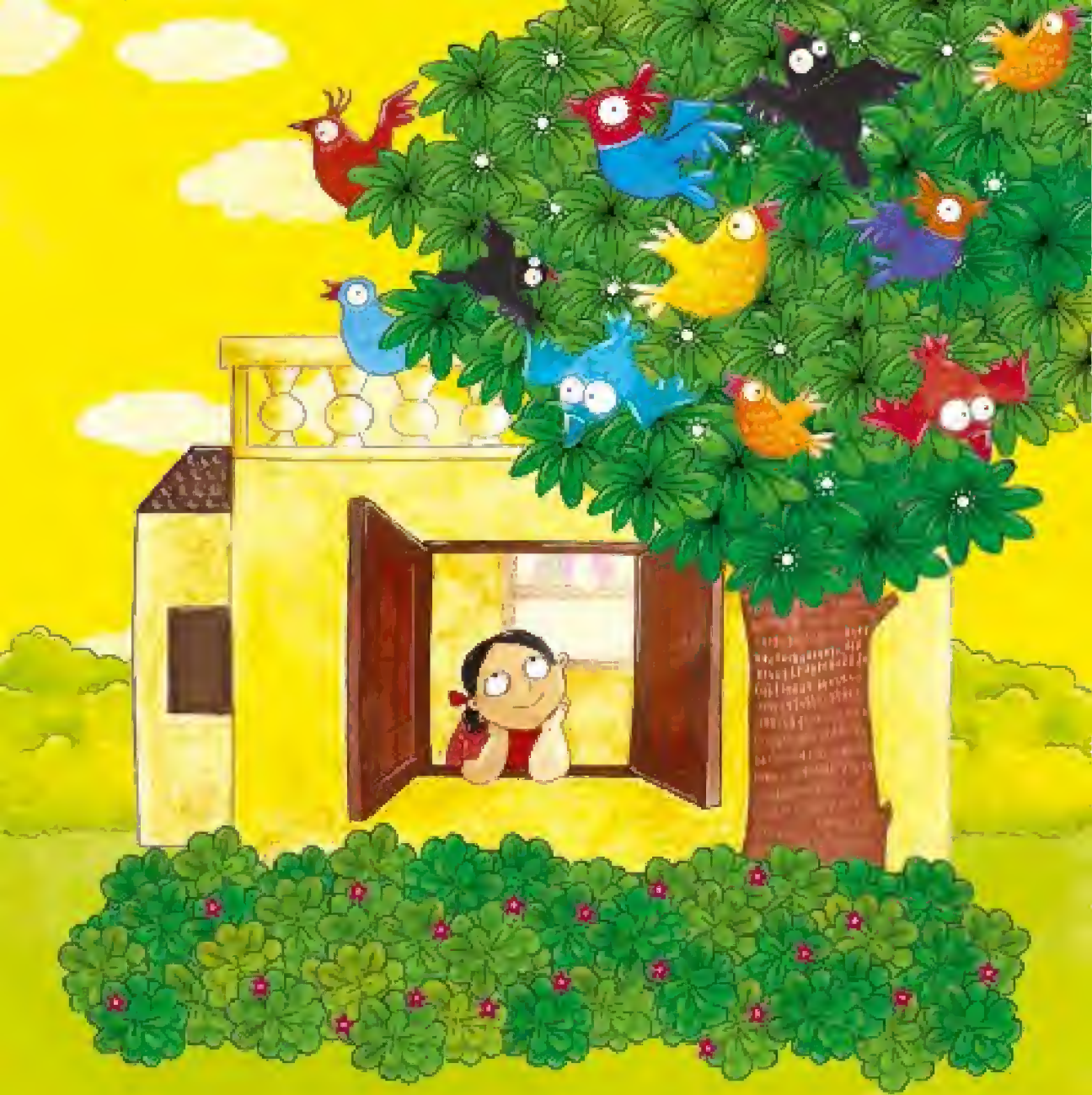


# Everything looks new!



Written by  
Mala Kumar and Manisha Chaudhry

Illustrated by  
Priya Kuriyan



Today is Vasant Panchami. My parents say it is the first day of spring. Spring is the season between winter and summer. It is called Vasant Ritu in Sanskrit. In many parts of India, people pray to the goddess of learning, music and art on this day. Many birds are sitting on the tree near my house. I think they are singing to me.

The leaves on the tree are new and shiny. Just like my new frock. Amma is also wearing a yellow sari— such a pretty colour ‘basanti’, and such a pretty name!



Grandpa wants me to plant a tree. "But why?" I ask.

"So that you will have a friend to grow up with, Meenu," he says. "Spring is a good season to start something new."

We go to the garden. Grandpa and I dig a hole in the ground and plant a sapling. "How tall will it grow?" I ask him.





“Wait and watch, dear Meenu!” he says.

The squirrels are chasing each other. Tingu, the cat, chases a squirrel. And I want to chase Tingu. The garden is full of flowers. I like the yellow roses the best and Grandpa likes the white jasmine.



There is a carpet of leaves under some trees. Many trees have flowers. I like spring! Everything looks so pretty in spring!



Tomorrow is Holi. School is closed for two days. We have made a huge Holika with twigs, and pieces of wood. Some of us went to the forest and brought tesu flowers. Manu put the flowers in a tank of water. The water has turned a bright orange!

Tomorrow we will play Holi with the orange water.  
We will get gujia and puris to eat.

Spring is such a happy season. It is not cold, it is not  
hot, and it is not wet. I can play all the time!





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Mala Kumar is a journalist and editor who enjoys playing with words, and with children especially on wintry afternoons and rainy evenings.

Manisha Chaudhry is an editor and translator. When she needs to rejuvenate, she rushes off to the mountains to watch birds and the snows and catches up on Urdu poetry.



Priya Kuriyan is an independent animation film maker and illustrator based in Delhi. She has directed educational films for the Sesame Street show (Galli Galli Sim Sim) and has worked on various TV commercials. She has also been illustrating for children's books and comics.

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